FBIS
DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

23 OCTOBER 1980

American Hostages

According to a Tehran-datelined REUTER report, Mohammad Musavi Kho'ini, a member of the Majlis Special Commission on the hostages, told a REUTER correspondent on 22 October that a "public statement" might be made in the Majlis on 26 October on the conditions for the release of the detained Americans and that if the United States agrees to the terms the hostages could be released on the following day.

In a press conference reported by Tehran radio's Arabic service, Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i reiterated that withdrawal of the AWACS aircraft from Saudi Arabia is not one of the conditions for the release of the hostages set by the Majlis, but he said that he considers their dispatch to the kingdom a "hostile action" on the part of the United States for which it must "repent." Regarding possible contacts with U.S. officials over the hostages, Raja'i said that "so long as the government has not been informed by the Majlis about any matter," it will not take "any initiative." Earlier in the press conference Raja'i denied meeting with Secretary of State Edmund Muskie in New York and said that his trip to the United Nations had "no relationship" to the hostages.

He also stated that there is no linkage between the hostages issue and the "procurement" of spare parts from the United States, and he noted that this equipment had been "bought and paid for a long time ago" but that the United States had "stalled" on its delivery.

Iraq-Iran Conflict

Chatti Mission--According to Karachi radio, Islamic Conference Secretary General Habib Chatti said upon his arrival in Islamabad from Tehran, that Iran has agreed to "study" his proposal to form a committee to mediate the conflict and has promised to reply later. Chatti said the committee would attempt to arrive at a cease-fire under which "neither party will lose face." He said Iraq agrees "in principle" with the formation of such a committee but wants "guarantees regarding its claims." He added that Iran continues to insist that there will be no negotiations as long as Iraqi troops are on Iranian soil. Nevertheless, he declared he is "moderately optimistic" about his mission and noted there has been an "improvement" in its prospects. However, Prime Minister Raja'i stated in his press conference, as covered by Tehran radio's Arabic service, that any activities in Iran by nonaligned heads of state and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat would only "waste the time" of Iranian officials.

Bani-Sadr Statement--In comments published in ENQELAB-E ESLAMI, reported by KUNA, President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr said it is "undemocratic and unfair" to choose a representative for the country and send him abroad "without even referring to the executive head and without the knowledge of the president." According to KUNA, Bani-Sadr was apparently referring to Prime Minister Raja'i's recent trip to New York, which the president called "yet another manifestation of opportunism" and an example of taking "undue advantage of the war for monopolizing power." Bani-Sadr also accused Raja'i of trying to "surpass" the president, legislature and judiciary and even the "revolutionary leader" and characterized as "illegal" all the "independent decisions" taken by Raja'i and his Cabinet, adding that he is not going to tolerate such "irregularities and illegal practices." He then declared that all "letters and official circulars" issued by Raja'i should be routed through his office. Bani-Sadr also accused the Muslim fundamentalists of "occupying" the radio and television stations and using them "at their free will."

Military Situation--Tehran radio's Arabic service reported that Iranian forces have repulsed an Iraqi advance into Abadan and that enemy artillery continued to pound the city from emplacements across the river in Iraq. According to INA, Iraqi troops destroyed yet another major pipeline leading from Abadan to "other parts" of Iran. The agency said Iran is now deprived of "all sources of crude or refined oil."

Tehran radio reported continued fighting in and Iraqi bombardment of Khuninshahr (formerly Khorramshahr) and said Iraqi forces were pushed back at "some points," but it confirmed the Baghdad claim that the Iraqis had captured the city's strategically located prison and a nearby bridge. INA claimed that Iraqi troops are advancing to complete the "cleansing" of the city and have gained "full control" of the Karun River estuary. Tehran radio reported that the Dezful and Andimeshk fronts had been "quiet," but its Arabic beam claimed that Iranian forces attacked Iraqi concentrations on the western bank of the Karkhen River in the Dezful sector. According to INA, an Iraqi military officer claimed that Dezful city has already "militarily fallen" and that "mopping up" operations depended on a "political decision" from Baghdad. Tehran radio reported further successes on the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab and Qasr-e Shirin fronts and in the Mehran region, but it claimed no significant advances by ground forces. The radio's Arabic service said the military situation on the Gilan-e Gharb, Somar and Ilam border regions is "relatively calm."

An Iranian Joint Staff communique, carried by Tehran radio, said Iranian aircraft carried out missions over As-Sulaymaniyah, Al-'Aqrah and Dairah in Iraq and hit Iraqi military targets in Ahvaz sector. Tehran radio also reported continued Iranian airstrikes against Iraqi concentrations outside of Khuninshahr. Iraqi General Command communiques, carried by Baghdad radio's Voice of the Masses and INA, added that Iranian aircraft attacked residential areas in Maysan, Haj 'Umran and Baghdad and that Iraqi fighters successfully attacked oil installations in the Masjed Soleyman region and Bandar Shahpur and strategic positions in the Dezful and Ahvaz sectors.

Another Iranian Joint Staff communique, carried by Tehran radio, called a REUTER report on the sinking of an oil tanker in the Strait of Hormuz "pure lies" and claimed it was the work of the "evil hand" of the "Saddam-supporting rumormongers."

Israeli Raid

The Voice of Palestine reported that about 20 Israeli planes attacked the As-Sa'diyat, An-Na'imah and Ad-Damur areas as well as Al-Barajinah in Lebanon on 22 October. According to Beirut radio, the sortie was directed at the An-Na'imah-bi-Wirta heights, the An-Na'imah At-Tahta woods and the quarries near Dayr An-Na'imah. In an interview with Jerusalem radio, Chief of Staff Refa'el Eytan said only that the attack was on a "relatively new" terrorist base and was carried out as part of Israel's ongoing policy of attacking the terrorists "wherever they are." While the Voice of Palestine claimed that antiaircraft fire forced the planes to drop their bombs wide of mark and that two of the Israeli aircraft had been hit, Jerusalem radio reported "accurate hits" on the targets and the safe return of all planes.

Briefly commenting on the attack in an interview carried by Jerusalem radio, Prime Minister Menahem Begin noted that it was the type of military action that Israel carries out from "time to time" in order to prevent terrorists from entering Israel and killing its citizens and that "it has been proven that this is the right way." According to Beirut radio, Prime Minister Salim al-Huss said the raid was only one example of Israel's "belligerence, arrogance and impudence" and of its daily "crimes" in Lebanon.

Lebanon

Beirut radio Carried a statement by the director general of the Lebanese Presidency saying that President Ilyas Sarkis has entrusted Shafiq al-Wazzan with the formation of a new government and that the prime minister-designate will begin parliamentary consultations to this end on 23 October. Prime Minister al-Huss resigned last June and has since been acting as caretaker. In a statement carried by Beirut radio, Al-Wazzan said it was "unnecessary" to set a date for the formation of the government. He also declared that Lebanon will continue along the course of "full cooperation and coordination" with Syria in view of the "special relations and common destiny" of the two countries, and with the policy of "complete coordination" with the PLO.

Saudi Arabia

The Libyan press agency JANA, citing the Kuwaiti daily AL-ANBA, reported that an "attempted coup" was discovered by Saudi authorities on 20 October shortly before it was to be carried out. The paper said the Saudi Government is facing a "popular revolution" in which "sections" of the armed forces have been taking part and claimed that Saudi authorities had executed nearly 50 army officers without trial by dropping them out of airplanes over the empty quarter. The paper went on to cite the belief of "political observers" that the Saudis obtained U.S. AWACS aircraft to help them uncover any attempt to overthrow the government.

Riyadh radio and the SAUDI PRESS AGENCY carried a telegram sent by King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz to Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi replying to a 9 October telegram in which Al-Qadhdhafi criticized the U.S. military "advance" in the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula, specifically the use of AWACS aircraft, and warned that Libya would struggle against "American occupation" in "alliance with the masses of the Arab homeland" "without paying attention to artificial borders." In his reply message, King Khalid said that in objecting to the Saudi use of AWACS aircraft, Al-Qadhdhafi had turned himself into a "spearhead against Islam" and accused him of wanting to leave the kingdom defenseless against the "enemies of Islam, namely the communists and Zionists." Khalid went on to say that decisions adopted by Saudi Arabia "cannot be subjected to any discussion with anybody."

King Khalid's telegram was also sent in the wake of a call by Al-Qadhdhafi for a "jihad" to "liberate Mecca." In a sermon delivered on the occasion of 'Id al-Adha, reported by Tripoli radio on 19 October, Al-Qadhdhafi said that Mecca and its holy places are under the "yoke of American occupation" and that the pilgrims' prayers on Mount 'Arafat had been "disturbed by the sound of American aircraft." He went on to urge the Islamic masses "everywhere" to "take up arms" in a jihad to liberate Mecca.

According to Riyadh radio, a Saudi official explained that King Khalid had answered Al-Qadhdhafi's charges only because the latter had "insulted the hajj" and "violated" the sanctity of the sacred places by claiming they are under foreign occupation. The official accused Al-Qadhdhafi, among other things, of trying to replace Islam with a "feeble and trivial ideology" and interpreting the Koran according to his "whims and impetuosity."

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MINISTRIES, FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY SIGN AGREEMENTS WITH USSR

Friendship Society Agreement

LD202058 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Oct 80

[Excerpts] Afghan-Soviet friendship week will be celebrated in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] during October-November 1981. This week will become (?part) of the 64th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. The celebration of this week will be implemented in accordance with the 2-year cooperation program between the friendship societies of the USSR and DRA signed by Dr Anahita Ratebzad, member of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee Politburo, minister of education and and training and chairman of the Afghan-Soviet Friendship Society, and S.F. Antonov, USSR minister of trade and chairman of the USSR-Afghan Friendship Society.

Along with the signing of this cooperation program, a long-term agreement was signed between the friendship societies of the two countries. This agreement's emphasis is on the great importance of developing fraternal friendship between the people of the USSR and Afghanistan. This agreement also mentions that this friendship is based on the principles of internationalism and revolutionary solidarity and also on the links between the people of the USSR and Afghanistan in order to learn from each other about the work, life, revolutionary experience and the achievements of the peoples of the two countries.

Consumer Cooperative Aid

LD222350 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Oct 80

[Text] 'Abdol Salam, deputy minister of commerce, returned home this morning from the USSR. He had been in that country at the invitation of the USSR consumer cooperatives to visit its activities and to discuss cooperation between the consumer cooperatives of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the USSR.

During his visit, he signed a long-term loan agreement for R3 million with the USSR consumer cooperatives. This agreement stipulates that the USSR consumer cooperatives will help the consumer cooperatives of Afghanistan by providing transportation cooling and storage facilities and a number of training scholarships. Also during his visit, the deputy minister of commerce held talks over the inclusion of Afghanistan's consumer cooperatives in the International Union of Cooperatives with responsible authorities of that group.

Agricultural Projects Assistance

LD202238 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Oct 80

[Text] Soviet experts have completed the plan of a water reservoir and a canal over the Kokcha River in Afghanistan. A spokesman of the Soviet Ministry of Land Reform and Water Supply, commenting on this issue to a TASS reporter, said: As a result of this project about 100,000 jeribs of land in the north of Afghanistan will be irrigated. This area will be used mainly for the cultivation of cotton.

The survey work and plan of this project, in relation to the construction of a dam and hydroelectric powerplant which will be built in the near future in Qonduz Province, is currently on hand with the assistance of irrigation experts and engineers from the USSR. Measures have also been undertaken for the construction of two state farms in the area of the Jalalabad canal.

During the construction work and operation of the water supply projects, the USSR will train thousands of talented Afghan experts as machine, agricultural and irrigation workers, whose existence is vital for the development of the Afghan national economy.

Cooperation in building a technical center for Afghan agriculture constitutes a new area in the cooperation between the USSR and Afghanistan. The USSR will assist Afghanistan in the construction of training centers for machinery workers and tractor operators and in the provision of machinery and equipment for these centers. The USSR will also assist Afghanistan in its action campaign against grasshoppers in the northern areas of the country. At the same time, the relevant Soviet and Afghan authorities will cooperate in the operation of veterinary laboratories of Soviet make in the cities of Herat, Mazar-e Sharif and Jalalabad and in the establishment of veterinary clinics in the Balkh, Herat, Badghisat, Ghazni and Oruzgan Provinces.

A nitrite fertilizer unit will be constructed with the assistance of the USSR in Mazar-e Sharif which will have great importance. Its annual output will be 108,000 tons of (?carbonite) which will meet the country's need for nitrite fertilizer. The Jalalabad irrigation canal, which has been constructed with the assistance of the USSR, is famous outside Afghanistan. With the commissioning of this canal 125,000 jeribs of land will be irrigated, whereas in the past only 30,000 jeribs of land was irrigated by the Kabul River in the Jalalabad Valley. The USSR has helped in the construction and mechanization of two big farms, the Ghaziabad and Hada farms, which cover an area of over 30,000 jeribs. These farms are modern mechanized farms which are famous for production of citrus and olive fruits.

KESHTMAND DISCUSSES PROGRESS, TASKS SINCE SAWR REVOLUTION

For an article contributed to IZVESTIYA by Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee Politburo, deputy chairman of the Revolution Council and first deputy prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, on the revolution's progress and tasks see page D 4 of the 22 October South Asia section of the Soviet Union DAILY REPORT.

COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER DEPARTS FOR HAVANA SPUTNIK CONFERENCE

LD221506 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 22 Oct 80

[Text] Mohammad Aslam Watanjar, member of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] Central Committee, member of the Presidium of the Revolution Council and minister of communications, heads a delegation to participate in the international Intersputnik conference in Havana, which is looking at problems related to Sputnik communications.

At Kabul International Airport, Sayyed Mohammad Golabzoy, member of the PDPA Central Committee and of the Revolution Council and minister of interior; Abdol Wakil, member of the PDPA Central Committee and of the Revolution Council and minister of finance; the ambassador of Cuba in Kabul and some members of the Soviet Embassy were present to bid farewell to Watanjar.

BAKHTAR CONDEMNS WESTERN 'PROPAGANDA' ON ARMY MUTINY

LD211810 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Oct 80

[Text] While writing to a source at the Afghan Ministry of National Defense concerning the shameless lies of imperialist propaganda organizations which have recently published twisted lies about the situation in Kabul, a BAKHTAR news commentator comments:

The American news agency, UPI, the reactionary French daily [words indistinct], the BBC and the Voice of America have engaged in publishing fresh lies about the situation in Kabul and the so-called mutiny by armed forces units in Pol-e Charkhi. This twisted lie once again illustrates the essence of the West's lie-fabricating propaganda organization. Hitler's propaganda minister Goebbels once said: The bigger the lie, the easier the people swallow it. Now the shameless imperialist propaganda organizations have taken this advice and are implementing this fascist conspiracy of theirs.

All the imperialist propaganda about our country, revolution and political system consists of lies, fabrications, accusations, exaggerations and provocative news; we know well and do not marvel at the aims of these news gatherers and filthy propagandists concerning our country.

Now that the large counterrevolutionary bands have been eliminated in the country, when the country's heroic forces together with the party's heroic members and the people's sincere cooperation are eliminating the final remnants of counterrevolutionaries from the country, when the situation is improving more than ever, when the revolutionary system is becoming firmly entrenched in the country and in the light of the Third People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee Plenum's resolution, and that the deep trust of the masses of the people in our party and government is further strengthening, the reactionary imperialists are doing their utmost to confuse the situation with lies and fabrications and want to reverse the process of revolution; this is a naive, discredited and misplaced desire.

While rejecting the imperialist propaganda organizations' shameless lies concerning the situation in Kabul and the so-called mutiny by armed forces units in Pol-e Charkhi, BAKHTAR once again stresses that the heroic and revolutionary Armed Forces of Afghanistan are standing like a fortress aginst the internal counterrevolutionary provocation and aggression and their reactionary and imperialist masters and are heroically defending their country with sacrifices and revolution. The country's revolutionary armed forces are resolved to deal decisive blows yet again to the imperialists and their (?lackeys) in the defense of the country and the revolution.

COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES RELEASED FROM PRISON

Karmal Remission Order

LD190352 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Oct 80

[Text] On the occasion of 'Id al-Adha Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee, chairman of the Revolution Council and prime minister, has ordered the remission of 185 prisoners of the capital and the provinces of the country.

A spokesman of the Ministry of Interior, while issuing this declaration, said: The final order concerning the release of these male and female prisoners has been communicated to the appropriate officials.

Samangan Release

LD171938 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 Oct 80

[Text] Thirty-eight residents of Kholm District in Samangan Province who were deceived by counterrevolutionary elements were released yesterday from the district jail.

At the time of their release, the deputy interior minister made a speech about the lofty objectives of the Sawr Revolution, especially its new development stage. In reply, one of the deceived, on behalf of the others, expressed the group's willingness for sacrifice in the defense of the honor of the country.

Baghlan Release

GF181431 Kabul in Urdu to South Asia 1330 GMT 18 Oct 80

[Text] Elements who committed inhuman subversive activities in Baghlan Province at the behest of reactionaries were released from prison recently.

GANDHI DEFENDS DOMESTIC, FOREIGN POLICIES AT PRESS CONFERENCE

BK221400 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1445 GMT 21 Oct 80

[Report on Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's 21 October press conference in Delhi]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Mrs Gandhi began her news conference with a statement--a tour d'horizon, an overall review of common concerns. She gave a balanced and integrated picture of the nation's performance over the last several months. She referred to the improved economic situation since April and said that industrial and agriculture production had picked up and the rate of inflation checked and slowed down. The law and order situation had improved but was still far from satisfactory.

Mrs Gandhi was happy that peace had prevailed during the recent festivities. Delhi had an impressive Id al-Adha. The prime minister congratulated those voluntary organizations who had brought this about and who had done so much to restore harmony and goodwill between communities.

[Begin recording] [Question in Hindi] Kashmir Chief Minister Sheykh Mohamad Abdullah has said in a statement that the central government is very weak and has been unable to protect minorities--even after 35 years of independence--and that their lives and property are not safe. What are your impressions of this?

[Answer in Hindi] You can see that I do not want to pick a fight with anybody. The person you have named sometimes says this and sometimes says that. Here, it is a fact, however, that incidents like those that took place in Moradabad or Aligarh do happen sometimes. But, as I said earlier, there is hardly any country where such things do happen. But this should not be an excuse for us--we must stop this, and this has always been our goal.

It is unfortunate that the present government in Kashmir has encouraged the Jan Sangh in Jammu and that the Jammat-I-Islam has been encouraged in Kashmir valley. Now, these two organizations profoundly fan communalism. These things should not be left for the government only. In a country with such a large population, unless the people cooperate and really try to control the communal elements, these things cannot be accomplished, but I can say that no other country in the world is doing as much for minorities as we are doing here in this country.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] I do not know whether banning will solve the problem. If the banning of such organizations would solve the problem, we could consider it, but I have my doubts about it. We have to meet it politically and we have to meet it socially and we have to involve the largest number of the public in it. I am convinced and it has been proved even during times of tension and even rioting that majority of people are not for such tension. They do help the people of other communities, it is a matter of education, it is a long-term thing and I think that is the only way out.

So far as newspapers are concerned, I have said many times that there is the press council. It is for the newspaper community itself to look into such problems and to see what should be done about them, because it is not only the question of communalism, but even when there are other movements--whether on language or other things--I think it is still the duty of the newspaper world to give guidance on it instead of trying to provoke passions or to write anything which will aggravate the situation and result in greater violence, loss of lives and so on.

[Question] Do you think some foreign money played some hand in riots?

[Answer] This question was indirectly asked just now. I do not think that foreign money had any direct hand. People try to make much of the fact that there are some educational institutions coming up in Moradabad, but there is no reason to believe that there was any connection between them and the riots. Also, I think whole of this talk was a very mischievous suggestion to try and create division between us and our Arab friends who have consistently stood by us.

[Question] One of your chief ministers of Congress-I has said that democracy has failed in this country and, on the other hand, there is a talk about presidential form of government. What is your opinion?

[Answer] Now, those countries which have presidents, many of them consider themselves democracies also. My own views on this had been made clear on many times, and I agree what Sir Winston Churchill said. He said democracy is the most fragile of systems, but there is not any better. Now this is where it is. It is full of faults, it is full of difficulties, but which system is not? The government has an obligation to allow the opposition to function, to give it free press and allow peaceful demonstrations and all that sort of thing, but the opposition also has a responsibility to allow an elected government to function. If they are going to, sort of, try to obstruct from the very beginning, then obviously the thing that the people wanted--that is the implementation of the declared programs--is that much more difficult.

[Announcer] Mrs Gandhi was asked about India's stand on the Afghanistan situation.

[Begin recording] Well, I can see, but my stand is exactly what it was before and nothing has changed very much. We have said that we do not approve foreign troops or any other type interference in any country. This has been our stand always and remains our stand. Now the other thing is how to deal with it, whether shouting about it is going to force the troops out or whether other initiatives could be taken.

[Question] There is talk about India's coordinating its planning with the Soviet 5-year plans. In what areas is it expected to be?

[Answer] It is not really a question of coordinating as such, but, whenever we buy something from the Soviet Union, they have to be fitted into their 5-year plans, and that is why if they do not have them in advance--ideas what we are likely to want--we are not likely to get it.

[Question] Madame Prime Minister: Would you be please to say what is your assessment about the latest situation in Iran and Iraq and whether in response to the suggestion made by the Iraqi envoy--special emissary--who came and requested you to mediate between the dispute--would you like to share with us what is the situation like?

[Answer] All of you are aware of the number of attempts on mediation--attempts which have been made and so far none has got a move on. We are in touch with both sides, but do not think anything very positive is immediately possible. Of course, there are some indications of softening, but we are deeply unhappy over the conflict because both countries are good friends of ours.

[Question] In view of the dispatch of enriched uranium, are we going to have better relations with the United States in future or if not whether we will get into trouble again with regard to this agreement?

[Answer] You see we are trying to base our relations not on anything that is happening at the moment, but in the overall context. Therefore, we have tried for friendship with America very consistently all along. That is still our role, because we think that regardless of a country's system or what they want to do there, we should be friends, especially with such an important nation as the United States. Unfortunately, it is their administration, which we learn according to their writers, who are always having a tilt against us.

[Question] How would you appraise the current mood in Pakistan and would you say that there has been a setback in bilateral relations?

[Answer] Well, it depends on what you mean by the mood, whose mood? Because the president has one mood--I do not know if the people's mood is the same. It is unfortunate that President Zia has gone against the letter and spirit of the Simla agreement in raising Kashmir, and when we had the trouble in Moradabad, they had tried to make it a major international issue. Such things do not help relations, especially it had a big effects among our own people here. [end recording]

[Announcer] If the security of India is threatened by the situation in Afghanistan, Mrs Gandhi:

[Begin recording] What poses a threat is the greater involvement of all the powers in the Indian Ocean and in the region. Because the [word indistinct] did not suddenly begin, or the threat did not begin from the Soviet troops entry into Afghanistan. Long before that there was a lot of activity in the Indian Ocean and there was the Western activity in various other countries, and that time also we thought that this would lead to further involvement of others as well, and this is what is happening. Now it is a kind of escalation. [end recording]

[Announcer] The prime minister was asked for her reaction to the strictures placed on Mrs Bandaranaike by the Government of Sri Lanka. Her reply:

[Begin recording] Well it is not a question of an individual, but I must say that I am deeply distressed at this trying to take away her political rights, her voting rights and I see some newspapers came out that she would not be allowed to address meetings and I believe that earlier on her nephew who used to be finance minister, Mr Felix Banadaranaike, he was deprived of his civic rights and in fact he could not vote in a local election. I think that this very bad. [end recording]

AFP: INDIAN PUBLIC QUESTIONING GANDHI'S ABILITY

BK180755 Hong Kong AFP in English 0644 GMT 18 Oct 80

[By Govindan Unny]

[Excerpts] New Delhi, 18 Oct (AFP)--For the first time since she assumed power in a landslide election victory in January, vast sections of Indian public opinion have begun to question Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi's ability to solve India's mounting economic and political problems, observers noted today.

With the passing of the national security ordinance last month empowering her government to detain people without trial, fears are also being expressed in various circles that she might resort to emergency rule once again. Opinion polls published by the press have thrown light on increasing dissatisfaction with the way the administration of the country has been handled in the nine months of Congress Party rule. According to one survey, as much as 67.7 percent of people questioned in all major towns of the country had asserted that things were going badly for the country. It was the highest such percentage in the 33 years of Indian independence.

Mrs Gandhi had won the election mainly on the theme that if elected she would install a government that works" to take the place of the Janata Government which had brought the nation to "near-chaos" during its three-year rule. But political commentators, including some known for their admiration for her, are now detecting signs of "indecisiveness" and "ineptness" in her handling of the nation's affairs. One commentator said that the country, which hoped for a "government that functions," was now facing a "government gripped by paralysis."

Mrs Gandhi's critics have been unable to pinpoint the reasons for her "indecisiveness" except to touch on the possibility that the death of her younger son, Sanjay Gandhi, in a plane crash in June, might have caused it.

The fortnightly English magazine, INDIA TODAY, in a recent article, said, "The sad fact is that Mrs Gandhi had come to rely so much on Sanjay, she was so taken by the brash tactics and predilections, that nobody else had her ear." "Sanjay snatched from the scene, Mrs Gandhi was really confronted with a party machine she had lost touch with, chief ministers she didn't know, and government policies she couldn't entirely own to. Personal shock apart, there was the entire political dimension which had slipped from her hands--and appeared well-nigh impossible to once again take hold of," the magazine added.

Mrs Gandhi is also being criticised for having around her "the weakest council of ministers" since independence. The lack of administrative experience of some of these ministers, holding vital portfolios like economic affairs and the interior, is said to have caused the failure of her government to effectively tackle problems.

Mrs Gandhi, according to her close aides, is fully aware of the "drift" in the situation but it would be wrong to assume she had "lost her grip." The majority of the press commentators, while lamenting over the situation, have also pointed out that the Indian electorate would still prefer Mrs Gandhi as prime minister if an election were to take place now. This, they admitted, was partly due to the utter confusion prevailing in the ranks of the opposition parties which had yet to recover from the faction-fighting and also due to the discredited roles played by her predecessors in power. Her aides noted that the first formal press conference Mrs Gandhi had arranged for Oct 21 was intended to "throw more light" on the problems the government faced and the difficulties in solving them.

UNION CABINET EXPANDED, PORTFOLIOS RESHUFFLED

BK190901 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 19 Oct 80

[Text] The Union Council of Ministers has been expanded with the induction of one cabinet minister, six ministers of state and four deputy ministers. President Sanjiva Reddy administered the oath of office and secrecy to 10 new ministers at Rashtrapati Bhavan this afternoon.

Mr S.B. Chavan is the new cabinet minister in charge of education.

The new ministers of states and their portfolios are: Mr Bhagwat Jha Azad--supply and rehabilitation, he will hold independent charge; Mrs Shila Kaul--education; Mr S.S. Sisodia--revenue and expenditure in the Finance Ministry; Mr Khurshid Alam Khan--commerce; Mr Shivraj Patil--defense; and Mr Baleshwar Ram--agriculture.

The new deputy ministers are: Mr Brij Moham Mohanti--civil supplies; Miss Kumud Bahen Joshi--information and broadcasting; Mr P.S. Sangma--industry; and Miss Lamala Kumari--agriculture. Mr Sangma was not present at the swearing in ceremony.

Some changes in portfolios have also been announced: Mr P.C. Sethi will now be the minister for petroleum, chemicals and fertilizers; Mr Virendra Patil will be the minister for shipping and transport; Mr Bhisma Narain Singh will have works and housing in addition to parliamentary affairs; Mr N.D. Tiwari will be in charge of labor in addition to planning; Mr A.P. Sharma will be the minister for tourism and civil aviation; Mr Z.A. Ansari will be the minister of state for irrigation; Mr C.P.N. Singh will be the minister of state for science and technology; Mrs Ram Dulari Sinha will now be the minister of state for labor--she was hitherto the minister of state for information and broadcasting.

There are some changes among the portfolios of deputy ministers also: Mr Vijay M. Patil will be the deputy minister for communications and Mr Venkatreddy deputy minister for labor.

The ALL-INDIA RADIO correspondent says the swearing in was held in the upper lodge adjacent to the Ashoka Hall in Rashtrpati Bhavan. The brief ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi and some of her cabinet colleagues including External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Vasant Sathe and Planning Minister N.D. Tiwari.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS VISIT USSR, SOVIET ADMIRAL VISITS INDIA

New Ambassador to Moscow

BK171304 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 17 Oct 80

[Text] Mr V.K. Ahuja, now ambassador to Japan, has been appointed ambassador to the Soviet Union. He will succeed Mr Inder Kumar Gujral. Mr Ahuja is expected to take up his appointment shortly.

Planning Minister's Departure

BK201604 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Oct 80

[Text] Minister for Planning and Labor N.D. Tiwari left New Delhi today on a week-long visit to the Soviet Union. He will study the working of the Soviet planning bodies in the spheres of economic, social and cultural development. Mr Tiwari will also discuss matters of mutual interest with the Soviet leaders. The minister is accompanied by senior officials of the Planning Commission. He was seen off at the airport, among others, by the Soviet ambassador in India.

Information Minister's Return

BK181028 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Oct 80

[Text] Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Mrs Ramdulari Sinha has returned to New Delhi from Moscow. During her stay in the Soviet capital she led the Indian delegation to the International Women's Conference. She also participated in the conference of the International Cooperative Alliance.

Before leaving Moscow Mrs Sinha told the UNITED NEWS OF INDIA that color television operations are expected to be started from some stations before the 1982 Asian games. She expressed satisfaction with her discussions with Soviet Minister for Radio and TV Lapin. She has invited Lapin to visit India during the coming international film festival.

Admiral Semenov's 'Goodwill Visit'

BK171554 Hong Kong AFP in English 1542 GMT 17 Oct 80

[Text] New Delhi, 17 Oct (AFP)--A Soviet naval squadron, headed by the missile cruiser Vladivostok, arrived at Cochin, on the southwestern Indian coast, on Thursday, reports said. Said to be on a "goodwill visit," the squadron is expected to leave on Saturday.

The reports said Rear Admiral G.I. Semenov, commander of the squadron, read out a lengthy statement to the press on board, which among other things referred to "persistently increasing military presence" of the U.S. in the Indian Ocean, but rejected questions whether the arrival of the squadron was in any way connected with the present Gulf war. "The squadron was sailing to the scheduled route and would return to the Soviet Union," Admiral Semenov was quoted as saying in reply to a question.

ZIAUL HAQ SPEAKS ON GULF, AFGHANISTAN, ISLAMIC AFFAIRS

Gulf Cease-Fire Proposal

BK171712 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 17 Oct 80

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has addressed an appeal to both Iran and Iraq to order the suspension of the hostilities during the period of hajj between the 9th and the 13th of Zilhij, that is between the 18th and the 22d of this month. The Iranian charge d'affaires and the Iraqi ambassador in Islamabad were called to the Foreign Office and the message was handed over to them tonight.

In identical messages sent to President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr of Iran and President Saddam Husayn of Iraq, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has stated that, actuated by the spirit of Islamic brotherhood and solidarity, the Islamic countries have continued in their efforts to find a just and honorable way of putting an end to hostilities between the two Muslim countries. The president was pointing out that this is the last hajj of the 14th century of the Hegra [Islamic calendar] and it would be in consonance with the resolve of the Muslim community to make the 15th century the turning point in its history and the date of hajj should be marked by the absence of bloodshed in the Muslim world as the holy Koran itself forbids fighting during the hajj.

Lahore Press Conference

BK221559 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Oct 80

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that encouraging progress has been made in connection with restoring peace between Iran and Iraq. Talking to newsmen at Lahore Airport this afternoon, he said he will be able to give more details about this tomorrow as Islamic Conference Secretary General Habib Chatti will be reaching Lahore tomorrow.

In reply to a question, he said no big power has as yet taken sides in the war between the two countries. Despite this, as Muslims we should pray for an early end to the conflict as the loss is that of the Islamic world.

Replying to a question, the president said the nation should be determined to defend itself and every Pakistani, whether military or civilian, is a crusader.

Answering another question the president said he never stated that he favors one political party. I do desire, however, that people stand under the banner of a single party no matter what its name--Islamic Party, Pakistan Party or whatever the name. We should work for the promotion of Islam and the interests of Pakistan. He said he has no wish to set up any political party.

Earlier on arrival, he was warmly received by councillors, ulemas, nobles and people in large numbers. The president went to the crowd which was raising welcome slogans. Punjab Governor Lt Gen Ghulam Jillani Khan and high officials were also present on the occasion.

New Afghan Peace Initiative

BK221634 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Oct 80

[Excerpts] President Mohhammad Ziaul Haq has reiterated that the government is committed to bring Pakistani society under the Islamic fold. He was replying to a welcome address by the mayor of Lahore Corporation at a civic reception by the citizens of Lahore this evening. The reception was accorded to the president for his forceful representation of the cause of the Islamic world at the UN General Assembly.

The president said the government will continue to endeavor to achieve the goals for which it has been working for the past 3 years. He pledged the government will fulfill the mission it has taken upon itself. He said there should be no doubt in anybody's mind that the government will forego the mission of molding the society into the Islamic system.

Referring to Afghanistan, the president said Pakistan is taking a new initiative to present the Afghanistan issue in General Assembly to find a political solution for which it has the support of the majority of the Islamic Conference members. He said Pakistan has also been in contact with the Soviet Union and the United States over the crisis in Afghanistan. Lahore Corporation Mayor Mian Shujaur Rahman presented a model of the Pillar of Pakistan to the president. The president met with Prince Karim Agha Khan this evening.

AFP: NUCLEAR ENERGY CHAIRMAN BACKS INCREASED PROGRAM

OW182257 Hong Kong AFP in English 2245 GMT 18 Oct 80

[Text] Islamabad, 18 Oct (AFP)--Pakistan must step up its nuclear power programme and acquire a nuclear reprocessing plant for its uranium, Munir Ahmed Khan, chairman of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, said today. Speaking at a seminar in Lahore. Dr Munir said Pakistan has reached a stage where it must build its own nuclear powerplants for its "expanded nuclear programme." He said it was clear that advanced countries opposed Pakistan obtaining the technology to recycle nuclear fuel and "this situation was not acceptable to Pakistan." Recycled uranium could be used to make atomic bombs. Despite "Western propaganda," Pakistan's nuclear programme would remain peaceful because the country was aware of the dangers of nuclear proliferation, Dr Munir said.

The country has been able to manufacture nuclear fuel for its Karachi powerplant and has been decided to make adequate arrangements to fill its fuel needs, he said. Pakistan must also acquire a nuclear reprocessing plant to enrich its own abundant uranium, he said. He deplored leaving unexploited natural resources in developed countries, saying they first wanted to deplete Mideast oil resources.

BRIEFS

AFGHAN REFUGEE TOTAL--UN officials estimate that Afghan refugees in Pakistan will increase to 1.7 million by next June. The Pakistani state and tribal areas secretary, while agreeing with the UN estimate, informed the Radio Pakistan representative in Islamabad today that it is quite possible the number of Afghan refugees might increase to 1.3 million from 1.2 million by December. At present, there are more than 1.1 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan who have formally registered with the government. About 60,000 to 90,000 refugees are arriving in Pakistan every month. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Oct 80 GF]

IRANIAN RAILROAD TECHNICIANS--The Pakistan railways is to provide technical knowhow to Iran in all fields of the railways under an agreement reached with the Iranian Government. A railway spokesman told PAKISTAN PRESS INTERNATIONAL in Lahore today that the first batch of Iranian technicians has already arrived in Pakistan for about 3 months training. During this period they will work with Pakistani experts in various railway workshops. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 21 Oct 80 BK]

AMBASSADOR TO CANADA--The governor general of Canada has reiterated his country's grave concern over the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and called for the withdrawal of Soviet forces. He made this observation while accepting the credentials of the new Pakistan ambassador to Canada, Altaf Ahmed Shaikh, in Ottawa. [Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 19 Oct 80 BK]

DETAILS OF 22 OCT OPEN MAJLIS SESSION REPORTED

LD221221 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1049 GMT 22 Oct 80

[Excerpts] The Islamic Consultative Assembly held an open session today. In this session, which was held at 0800 and chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi Rafsanjani, Mr Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, the Iranian Islamic Republic's prime minister, was present and submitted a report on his trip to New York, his attendance at the UN Security Council session, and his visits to Algeria and Libya.

According to our correspondent, after submitting the report on his trip, the prime minister presented a number of bills to the Majlis, as follows:

1. Bills concerning the extension of the time limit stated in the addendum to the bill of law regarding the purchase of equipment relating to [word indistinct] communication and airport facilities.

2. A bill concerning the purchase of spare parts and the purchase and leasing of locomotives required by Iran's state railway.

3. A bill concerning the acceptance of registration and issue of ownership deeds of [words indistinct] situated in the [word indistinct] regions of Mazandaran and Gorgan and other similar regions.

4. Permission for determining the [word indistinct] for the appraisal of the differences between the Iranian company [name indistinct] and the [name indistinct] company.

5. A bill on changing the name of the Ministry of Health and Welfare to the Ministry of Health.

6. A bill concerning an increase in the amount stated in the bill of law regarding the allocation of 500 million rials from the [word indistinct] commitments regarding the [word indistinct] air force buildings.

7. A bill concerning development plan implemented by government companies.

8. A bill concerning the maximum pension allowance.

9. A bill concerning the (?allocation) of duties and authority of the civil aviation supreme council.

10. A bill concerning the abolition of the addendum No 19, article 68, of the general calculation law [qanun-e mohasebat-e omumi].

11. A bill on obtaining required spare parts, without observing the relevant procedures.

According to the Central News Bureau correspondent, in today's meeting, after the recital of a number of verses from the Koran, Mohammad 'Ali Hadi-Najafabadi, a deputy from Tehran, in his preagenda speech referred to the sensitivity and importance of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He said: Unfortunately, so far the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic has not been given enough attention; we are at present suffering from this lack of attention. He said: We should give more attention to foreign issues; we do not exist on our own in the world. The speaker added: Our Islamic revolution is the biggest event in the history of Islam, after the migration of the prophet, may God's benevolence be upon him and his kin; its aim is the salvation of all the oppressed from the yoke of the world superpowers and then the formation of a (?single) global government.

He then referred to the main shortcomings in foreign policy. He stated that one problem is a lack of attention to the liberation movements; the other is a lack of attention to the Islamic countries. I would like to ask: We, who believe in exporting our revolution, in which Islamic country do we have an (?ambassador)? [sentence as heard] The second problem is the lack of attention to international propaganda. Regarding the hostage-taking issue, due to a lack of correct propaganda we could not make the world understand what we were trying to say.

Referring to the fact that the war is on two fronts--political and military--and that [words indistinct], and the useful results of the trip of Mr Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, the prime minister, to New York, Algeria and Libya, he expressed hope that this trip will lay the foundations for the propagation of activities in the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Today's open session ended at 1240. And the next open session of the Majlis will be held at 0730 next Sunday.

Spokesman on Hostages

PA221929 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1917 GMT 22 Oct 80

[Text] Tehran, 22 Oct (EFE)--A spokesman for the Iranian Majlis stated today, Wednesday, in Tehran the the U.S. hostages might be released this coming Monday if Washington accepts the conditions previously established.

The announcement was made by Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi Kho'ini, member of the parliamentary commission created 3 weeks back to set the conditions for ending the holding of the 52 U.S. hostages.

According to the same spokesman, the seven members of this commission might announce on Sunday the negotiated conditions to put an end to the situation of the hostages who have been held for more than 11 months.

PRIME MINISTER RAJA'I CHAIRS 22 OCT CABINET MEETING

LD230358 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 23 Oct 80

[Text] Yesterday afternoon the Cabinet held a session, chaired by Mr Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, the prime minister. At this session, which started at 1800 and lasted until 2300, various issues of the country were discussed and studied.

RAJA'I HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE ON UN VISIT, WAR, HOSTAGES

JN222006 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 22 Oct 80

[Text] PARS reports that Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i today held a press conference attended by Iranian and foreign news correspondents. Raja'i answered questions posed by the journalists on his visit to New York, his attendance at the UN Security Council session, the Iranian-Iraqi war and matters dealing with the hostages.

Asked about the truth of a report published in one of the Tehran morning papers about his meeting with Edmund Muskie, brother Raja'i said: Never. I announced in New York that I did not meet with any U.S. officials.

Regarding our correspondent's question on Habib Chatti's meeting with Iranian officials and the impact of these talks on the cease-fire, brother Raja'i said: These talks will not have any effect on our defense.

They will just make those who are bombing innocent people come to their senses and stop their bloody crimes.

Asked about his visit to the United Nations and the imam's opinion of the visit as well as its results concerning the fate of the hostages, the prime minister replied: My attendance at the UN meeting had no relationship to the question of the hostages. Although I had already answered questions on the subject, they created big propaganda on the subject saying that the UN meeting was only an excuse and that I actually had come to the United States to negotiate on the hostages issues. It soon became clear, however, that their propaganda was not based on truth.

Regarding his meeting with Imam Khomeyni, brother Raja'i said: The imam's viewpoint on the visit was positive.

Regarding the hostages and their fate, brother Raja'i said: The issue of the hostages is linked with our people. The final decision on them rests with the Consultative Assembly.

Asked what he would have done if he had been held hostage, brother Raja'i said: I would have been like all the sons of my homeland who were held hostage by the United States for 25 years. My people resisted and I was one of them.

Asked if there would be a change of attitude depending on whether Reagan or Carter are elected to the U.S. presidency, the prime minister said: Reagan and Carter are not acting independently. They represent certain trends in the United States. If those trends called for the necessity of war on the social, economic and political levels, Carter would go to war. If necessity does not call, Reagan will not go to war either if he becomes president. Therefore, neither Carter nor Reagan is qualified, because they are subject to monopilies, big oil companies and military industries.

Brother Raja'i was asked: You announced in New York that the United States must repent. Could you clarify this matter? Brother Raja'i said: I was asked in New York: Is the withdrawal of AWACS planes from Saudi Arabia one of the conditions for releasing the hostages? I replied that this is not one of the conditions of the Islamic Consultative Assembly. Since I considered this U.S. initiative [sending AWACS to Saudi Arabia] a hostile action against Iran, I said--taking into consideration the meaning of repentance in Islam--that the United States must repent for this step.

Brother Raja'i was asked: Will the government agree to the arrival of a U.S. delegation in Iran to negotiate over the hostages? The prime minister said: So long as the government has not been informed by the Majlis about any matter, the government will not take any initiative.

[Words indistinct] our country is completely ready to live without dependence on oil revenues.

Asked about his previous statements that we can in the future draw nearer to the Japanese economic strength and to what extent can we establish relations with Japan and the West European countries to make up for military losses, the prime minister said: Independence, for us, come first, and industry come second. We are not prepared to exchange our independence for anything. The best we can do for our country's independence is to adhere to the slogan of "Neither East, nor West."

Press on Conference

JN230816 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0720 GMT 23 Oct 80

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] The newspapers JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI and SOBH AZADEGAN published the text of the press conference held by Prime Minister brother Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i on the results of his trip to New York, where he participated in the UN Security Council meeting, and on his visit to Algeria and Libya.

Brother Raja'i said that there is no relationship between the U.S. hostages' issue and the procurement of spare parts from the United States. The spare parts were bought and paid for a long time ago. However, the U.S. Government stalled in delivering them to Iran.

On the various activities to end the war between Iran and the Iraqi Ba'thist regime, the prime minister said: The arrival of nonaligned heads of state and brother 'Arafat in Iran will only waste the time of Iranian officials. Those who wish to undertake any initiative should go to Baghdad, for Baghdad is the aggressor against us.

Brother Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i affirmed that the heroic defenders of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who are standing on the battlefields against the Ba'thist enemy and (?heroically dying) for their holy cause, will not stand as idle spectators hoping for UN resolutions. Brother Raja'i also affirmed that Iran is prepared to continue its march without any oil revenues.

The prime minister stressed that the Libyan stand was completely identical to the Iranian stand concerning the Iraqi regime. The brother officials in Algeria promised to announce their stand on the Ba'thist aggression against Iran.

CHATTI DEPARTS AFTER MEETING WITH RAJA'I 22 OCT

NC221357 Paris AFP in English 1339 GMT 22 Oct 80

[Text] Tehran, 22 Oct (AFP)--Islamic Conference Secretary-General Habib Chatti left here today for Islamabad after what observers believed was a failed attempt to mediate between Iran and Iraq.

Mr Chatti, who was here on a good offices mission on behalf of the Islamic Conference, met this morning with Iranian Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, PARS NEWS AGENCY reported.

Mr Raja'i was said to have told Mr Chatti that no negotiations were possible as long as Iraqi forces occupied Iranian territory.

Mr Chatti is due to have further talks in Islamabad with Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, the current Islamic Conference chairman, PARS said.

During his visit, the second since the beginning of the conflict between Iran and Iraq, Mr Chatti had proposed the setting-up of a committee of Muslim heads of state to continue the good offices mission.

If Iran accepted the plan, Mr Chatti told reporters, the committee would proceed by "listening to the two parties, discussing the other's position with each of them and attempting to arrive at a ceasefire under which neither party will lose face."

During his visit, Mr Chatti also met with Iranian religious leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, parliamentary Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani and Supreme Court President Ayatollah Mohammad Beheshti.

Ayatollah Khomeyni reportedly told Mr Chatti that Iraq should confess its "crimes" and pay reparations for its war against Iran.

"The enemy cannot compensate us for lost lives but they should compensate our economic damages, surrender their government and allow the Iraqi people to decide their own future," the ayatollah added.

PARS DIRECTOR MEETS WITH KHOMEYNI TO DISCUSS PROGRAMS

GF221820 Zahedan International Service in Urdu 1530 GMT 22 Oct 80

[Text] The PARS director met with the leader of Iran's Islamic revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Imam Khomeyni, at 0930 today. During the meeting, he presented the imam with a report on the news agency's current operations, changes that have been made and its future programs.

At the end of the meeting, the PARS director told correspondents about the meeting. He said the imam emphasized the need for propaganda in foreign countries so the international community may become better acquainted with current affairs and the monstrous crimes being committed here by the Iraqi Ba'thist government and communist agents.

BANI-SADR INSPECTS KHUZESTAN BATTLEFRONT

LD221704 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1637 GMT 22 Oct 80

[Text] The Publicity Headquarters of the Supreme Defense Council, in a contact with the Central News Bureau, announced: Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, president and commander in chief of the armed forces, in the second week of his trip to Khuzestan Province, to follow the operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, today inspected the situation on the war fronts.

According to the PARS correspondent, the president, together with Lieutenant General Zahir Nezhad, commander of ground forces, inspected the war preparations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the southern region and talked to the officers and NCO's. According to the same report the president and commander in chief of the armed forces tonight visited one of the towns in Khuzestan Province, and reviewed the overall situation at the battlefronts and the methods of confrontation adopted by the fighting personnel of the revolution forces against the personnel of Saddam's army, in the presence of the commanders of the three armed forces.

ROME PAPER: BANI-SADR WOULD NEGOTIATE WITH IRAQIS

LD221625 Rome L'ESPRESSO in Italian 19 Oct 80 pp 58, 59, 61, 290

[Giancesare Flesca dispatch: "At the Front With Bani-Sadr"]

[Excerpt] Tehran--The story begins at 0800 on Sunday, 5 October. Bani-Sadr agreed to let me spend the entire day with him. The president had left his office and moved to the army headquarters, he being its supreme commander.

He was consulting with the heads of three services--Fallahi, commander of the land forces, small, nervous and mustachioed; Air Force Chief Fakuri, less than 40 years old, wearing a pilot's uniform; and the admiral who took over charge of the fleet from the exiled Madani, another young man, and one who speaks Italian, having studied at the Leghorn naval academy. Everywhere there were charts, documents and dispatches; one or other of the 10 telephones in this "oval room" was continuously ringing; the video screen on the president's desk-top computer even lit up two or three times. Everything was restrained, efficient and very military. Bani-Sadr has lost his sing-song, somewhat priest-like, tone of voice and seemed confident. The commanders apparently respect him.

Apparently--but what is in fact the truth? For instance, what was General Fallahi really thinking under his infantryman's cap? It is said that 50 days before the Iraqi attack began Bani-Sadr received specific information about a meeting in Paris. The meeting was attended by men close to former Iranian Prime Minister Bakhtiar, Iraqi military leaders and advisers of two Western powers. They discussed in detail an assault plan which was subsequently carried out. The presidency of the republic apparently came into possession of this information, for which it paid the normal price on the espionage market. But in circles close to Bani-Sadr many people believe that the report reached him, thanks to Soviet counterespionage, by means of an indirect maneuver.

The fact remains that the list of "internal" conspirators included the name of General Fallahi. Authoritative rumors maintain that Bani-Sadr summoned him, showed him the report and told him: "I prefer capable and disloyal generals to loyal but incapable ones." "Be assured of my loyalty," Fallahi apparently replied without batting an eyelid. Nevertheless, the ground forces seem to be the ones that have hitherto given the worst performance. The president did not agree: "The other forces," he said, "had spare parts, ammunition and better-trained men."

And what is there to say about Colonel Fakuri, with his very American manner, who commands the air force? At the time of the Tabas attack his name was often mentioned in connection with the so-called "fifth column." Now he seems to be super-loyal. His men are working miracles. During a pause he told me briefly that "the Russians are still supplying weapons and military experts to the Iraqis" and confirmed that his pilots did not want to hit the Dawa nuclear powerplant: "It was just a mistake," he said. He swore that he had absolutely no desire to "escalate" the war. "We know that the common people in Iraq are not against us."

The official meeting came to an end. Before receiving two visiting mullahs, Bani-Sadr talked with me for a few minutes. He showed me the map and explained how the enemy advance was halted: "The Iraqi's objective," he said, "was to cut off a strip of territory in western Iran from the far north to the oil wells in Khuzestan." He persistently repeated that Saddam Husayn cannot win the war alone. "If he is helped by the major powers or if the Arab states become involved, then it will be a long and difficult war for everyone. We will respond blow for blow. But if the Baghdad regime remains alone, we will undoubtedly manage to defeat it quickly. Saddam Husayn has no popular support, his soldiers are loath to go to the front and his enemies within the Ba'th Party are increasing. If that puppet falls and the Iraqis return to their territory, we are willing to negotiate with a government that truly represents them."

Bani-Sadr did not seem worried about international isolation. He continued to repeat that this is the weakness, but also the strength, of the Iranian regime. "You can see how when faced with an outside threat the people and the army responded magnificently, displaying exceptional courage. Of course, I still repeat that if the hostages issue were finally resolved everything would be easier, but every time the situation is about to resolve itself here the Americans make a wrong move--first with the famous Tabas operation and now by supporting the Iraqi aggression. It would almost seem that they do not want to recover these hostages...."

KUNA: BANI-SADR SAYS HE, NOT RAJA'I, HEADS GOVERNMENT

LD221156 Kuwait KUNA in English 1104 GMT 22 Oct 80

[Text] Tehran, 22 Oct (KUNA)-- Iran's elected President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr has reiterated his firm determination to rule the country saying it was he who was the head of government and not the prime minister appointed by him.

Bani-Sadr, in an angry tone, said that according to the Iranian Constitution it was the president, and not the appointed prime minister or the Cabinet, who was the head of the executive and the coordinator of the three main organs of democracy--the legislature, the judiciary and the executive body.

Apparently referring to Premier Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i's visit to the United Nations, Bani-Sadr in a report published in his [as received] paper ENQELAB-E ESLAMI said it was undemocratic and unfair to choose a representative of the government and send him abroad without even referring to the executive head and without the knowledge of the president.

Raja'i was despatched to the United Nations at a time when Bani-Sadr was outside the capital visiting the war-torn city of Dezful.

It may be recalled here that Bani-Sadr was invited by the U.N. secretary general, Kurt Waldheim, to come personally or nominate someone to represent Iran at the U.N. General Assembly session.

After receiving this invitation Bani-Sadr announced he would personally go to the United Nations to represent the case of his country.

Referring to the sudden departure of Raja'i, Bani-Sadr said it was "yet another manifestation of opportunism" and an example of taking undue advantage of the war for monopolizing power.

Bani-Sadr addressing his opponents said they should at least stop such activities during the war period and added "if you cannot provide any basic and useful assistance, you can at least refrain from pulling the legs and doing such things."

After the war the people would either (?ask) the president to quit and leave everything in your hands or they would demand cooperation among the legislature, judiciary and the executive, Bani-Sadr said.

He rapped Raja'i saying that the appointed prime minister in his ambitious moves was trying to surpass every body over and above the head of the revolutionary leader, the elected president, the legislature, the judiciary and what not.

Bani-Sadr described as illegal all the independent decisions taken by Raja'i and his Cabinet so far and added: "I am not going to tolerate such irregularities and illegal practices in my capacity as elected president and the head of the executive machinery."

In an effort to restrict the powers of the prime minister, Bani-Sadr said all the letters and official circulars issued by Raja'i should necessarily be routed through the president's office.

It was against all cannons of justice and all principles of ethics to try to strip the elected president of his constitutional powers and occupy the presidency at a time when the country was at war, Bani-Sadr said.

He also criticised the Moslem fundamentalists for occupying the radio and television stations and accused them of using their important media at their free will.

Throwing his full support behind Western-educated liberals and technocrats, Bani-Sadr said it was not fair to ask the technocrats to fight and defend the country in a bid to pave the way for "those having no education nor experience to rule the country. [opening quotation mark as received]

KHALKHALI: KHUNINSHAHR, ABADAN WILL NEVER FALL

LD221816 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1641 GMT 22 Oct 80

[Text] At a time when the ceaseless battle between the brave soldiers of Islam and the mercenary forces of Iraqi Ba'thists continues, Hojjat ol-Eslam Sheykh Sadeq Khalkhali announced tonight in a telephone contact with the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran from the battlefronts that Khuninshahr [Khorramshahr] and Abadan will never fall and they will become the biggest cemeteries for the evil Ba'thist Government of Iraq. We draw your attention to the telephone report of Hojjat ol-Eslam Khalkhali on this matter:

[Begin Khalkhali recording] Today at 1100, in a mosque in the city of Khorramshahr, the heroic city and the great and fortified fortress of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I talked to the military, security, and ranger brothers and all the armed forces. At the same time as I was speaking, three of the mercenary Iraqi officers were arrested in a nearby place by our ranger brothers. I asked their names. They said: Our names are (Hanud), (Lashneh) and (Teyhan) from the city of Kut. I asked them: Is this place Khorramshahr or Muhammarah? They said: It is Khorramshahar. I said: For 4 consecutive weeks the Ba'thist radio of Iraq has spoken of the occupation of Muhammarah. They said: All this is pure lies. I said: If it were true we should be your capitives, not you our captives. They said: The Baghdad radio keeps talking such nonsense. At the moment, our dead soldiers are buried under the debris in Khorramshahr, in the eastern part of the city.

According to them [the Iraqi captives], this wicked Saddam Husayn did not show mercy even to the Iraqis themselves. God knows, today I witnessed something in Khorramshahr: The people talked of everything except fear and death. God knows that [words indistinct] our valiant people, our armed forces, our rangers, our first-class officers--I mean the officers from the officers training college--the feda'i-ye elslam; spoke of nothing except killing and being killed, saying that this city will become a big cemetery for the Ba'thists. Every day, our military brothers and self-sacrificing people create an epic in this city and, in fact, the proud history of the Islamic Republic of Iran is being written in Khorramshahr, not in [words indistinct] or newspapers or in other places. Pens and tongues and words and speech are incapable of expressing the epic which is being created in Khorramshahr.

I have a message for the dear and noble Iraqi people: They should not blindly follow this Ba'thist government, they should run away from their garrisons and should come and see the decomposed bodies of their forces under the frightful blows of the valiant Iranian Armed Forces. I also have another message for the self-sacrificing Iranian nation: Do not have the slightest fear or worry and the idea should not cross their mind that, God forbid, Khorramshahr will fall. Khorramshahr and Abadan have not fallen and will never fall and they will become the greatest cemeteries for this demonic Ba'thist Government of Iraq, around Khorramshahr and Shalamcheh. God's greetings and blessings be upon you. [end recording]

ROULEAU: KHOMEYNI WANTS HUSAYN REPLACED BY HAKIM

LD221613 Paris LE MONDE in French 22 Oct 80 p 3

[Eric Rouleau dispatch: "Imam Khomeyni Nominates a 'Successor' to President Saddam Husayn"]

[Text] Tehran--Iran's and the United States' double monologue shows the depth of the psychological gulf which separates the two countries. As in the past, President Carter's recent conciliatory statements have not been published here. The official position has remained unchanged--Washington will have to accept all the conditions set by Iranian Majlis for the release of the hostages. As for Imam Khomeyni, he has been showing supreme contempt for the United States. In neither of the two long speeches which he delivered on Monday did he mention either the problem of the imprisoned diplomats, the statements by American leaders or the Security Council debates.

In reply to Islamic Conference Secretary General Habib Chatti, who also came to offer the good offices of a group of Muslim heads of state, the guide of the revolution stated categorically that Iran will accept neither mediation nor cease-fire. The attitude of Islamic countries is "incomprehensible. Why have they not condemned the Iraqi aggression even though it is flagrant?" Why have they not demanded that the "criminal Saddam Husayn" be brought to trial? Therefore, he would receive a delegation of Muslim heads of state only if it came exclusively to observe the massacre of civilians and the destruction of Iran's economic infrastructures by the Iraqi forces. The imam's remarks to Habib Chatti, which were made in private, were immediately broadcast on radio. At the same time, President Bani-Sadr announced that the Islamic Conference secretary general's offer was still being "studied." This means that the matter has been decided. Chatti will probably leave Tehran on Tuesday without obtaining any satisfactory answer.

Overthrowing the "Infidel"

Imam Khomeyni has set himself an objective which will undoubtedly paralyze international diplomacy--the overthrow of the "atheistic" Baghdad regime. "Saddam Husayn must go," he told both Chatti and the Muslim brothers whom he received on the occasion of sacrifice day. "It is not only a question of securing the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces and compensation for the material damage which they have inflicted," he also stated. "Saddam must relinquish power and leave the Iraqi people to freely determine their destiny. All Muslims are dutybound to fight against the Baghdad regime and help the Iraqi people free themselves from Ba'thist oppression."

According to Imam Khomeyni, the Iraqi head of state is no less of a "megalomaniac" and "agent of American imperialism" than the shah was. What is even more serious is that, under the terms of the "fetwa" (Islamic legal decree), which was issued by the imam 2 weeks ago, Saddam Husayn is an "infidel." Therefore, it is believed here that the guide of the revolution will put as much energy into the struggle against the Ba'thist regime as he put into his 15-year resistance to the Pahlavi imperial regime.

Disagreement with Damascus

The Tehran authorities are already preparing a change of guard. Their candidate for Saddam Husayn's succession appears to be Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Hakim, who gave his first press conference on 20 October.

He was introduced as the man likely to "unite round him all opposition forces in Iraq." He has many credentials--he is the son of Ayatollah Muhsin al-Hakim, the Shi'ites' spiritual leader from 1960 through 1970 who was persecuted by the Ba'thist regime; he himself was repeatedly arrested and imprisoned for life in February 1977 before being pardoned in August 1978.

About 40 and wearing an imposing black beard, Ayatollah Hakim spoke of journalists in his native tongue--Arabic--and implied that he was talking on behalf of "all Iraqis." He was careful not refer exclusively to Iraqi Shi'ites (some 60 percent of the country's population). When asked who, in his view, should lead the revolutionary movement, he replied without hesitation: "The Muslim spiritual leader of the Iraqi people."

However, the question is far from settled. The Iraqi opposition leaders--Kurds, followers of An-Nasir, leftwing Ba'thists and communists--now gathered in Damascus to coordinate their activities against the Baghdad regime, refuse to countenance Islamic leadership of the front they have formed. In addition, Ad-Da'wah, the Shi'ite party close to Ayatollah Hakim, refuses to cooperate with this front while it includes the Iraqi Communist Party. After leaving Iraqi in secret last summer, Ayatollah Hakim first took refuge in Syria which he has just left after encountering "lack of understanding" from the Damascus leaders. That is how he came to take up residence in Tehran on 2 October.

The problem of Saddam Husayn's "successor" is therefore aggravating the dispute between Tehran and Damascus. The Syrian leaders who are also contending with the Muslim brothers' terrorist activites, have opted for the secular regime in Baghdad. The Iranian officials, who are in favor of establishing an Islamic republic similar to their own, object to the opposition parties supported by Damascus. For instance, Tehran supports the Iraqi Kurdish Democratic Party led by the Barzani brothers, while Damascus is giving considerable aid to the Kurdish patriotic front led by Jalal Talabani. The dispute between the two countries has turned into a trial of strength: The Iranian authorities intercepted an arms shipment which the Syrians were sending to their Iraqi Kurdish friends; by way of reprisal President al-Asad has so far refused--contrary to the reports published on this subject--to supply the light weapons which the Islamic Republic is seeking.

"A beggar does not make gifts to another beggar," circles close to the Syrian Embassy in Tehran explained. "Moreover," they added, "we do not see why Imam Khomeyni should use us as intermediaries to obtain Soviet arms. He only has to appeal directly to Moscow."

OIL MINISTRY ANNOUNCES DOMESTIC FUEL RATIONING

LD231008 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 23 Oct 80

[Text] The fuel and energy headquarters of the Oil Ministry has allocated fuel rations for domestic consumption. A spokesman for the Oil Ministry told our reporter: The kerosene ration for each household has been set at 500 liters monthly. In cases where houses with several residential units are concerned, each residential unit will receive one fuel ration. He added: The date when this fuel rationing system will be come into effect and the method by which fuel requests will be dealt with will be announced later.

KUNA CITES OFFICIAL ON CONTINUED OIL EXPORTS

LD221220 Kuwait KUNA in English 1119 GMT 22 Oct 80

[Text] Tehran, 22 Oct (KUNA)--Foreign oil tankers were still calling at Iran's Lavan Island oil export terminal in the Gulf and taking oil to world markets.

An official of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) Wednesday confirming this report said an Indian ship--Chatarpati--chartered by an international oil company of Western Europe anchored Tuesday at Fereidun on the oil export terminal of Lavan Island for taking Iranian oil deliveries.

The official denied all Western press reports that the export of Iranian oil was stopped following the Iran-Iraq conflict and after the (?heavy) shelling by Iraqi forces of Iran's largest oil exporting terminal at Khark Island in the Gulf. He further said that Iran resumed the export of its oil from the alternate oil exporting terminal at Lavan Island situated further south and in between Bahrain and the Strait of Hormuz in the Gulf.

Iran was determined to export its oil until all the built-up reserves were exhausted, he added. He, however, did not answer the question as to why Iran was desperately trying to export all its oil reserves and how many more days it would take to finish all the oil reserves in the Gulf.

Two Indian chartered ships, one of them identified as Nilkano, called at Lavan Island last week and took deliveries of Iranian oil for world markets, he said. More foreign ships chartered by world oil companies were due to call at Lavan Island within the next few days for taking Iranian oil, he further said. The main oil exporting terminal at Khark Island was closed after Iraqi aerial attacks and the destruction of oil exporting facilities at this terminal.

MUSLIM COMMUNITIES OUTSIDE IRAN EXPRESS SUPPORT AGAINST IRAQ

Syrians Make Donations

JN221315 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 22 Oct 80

[Text] PARS quotes the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Damascus as saying that the faithful Muslims in Syria are contacting the embassy to express their support for the Islamic Republic of Iran and to donate money to help war victims.

A Muslim Arab has donated 51,000 Saudi riyals to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Damascus to be spent on war victims. This faithful man has conveyed his warm greetings and wishes to the imam of the nation, the great Khomeyni, and to the heroic Iranian people. He said: I am confident that the hearts of all the Muslims in the world support you and that they hate Saddam and his traitor collaborators.

Pakistani Messages of Support

GF221620 Tehran International Service in Urdu 1315 GMT 22 Oct 80

[Text] PARS reports that various sections of Pakistani society, especially Islamic organizations, continue to support the Islamic Republic of Iran in the war that has been imposed by the imperialist agent, the Ba'thist government.

According to reports received, several groups have announced support in the countless messages and announcements issued so far.

IRAQIS REPORTEDLY EXECUTE TEHRAN ARABIC LISTENERS

GF221635 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Oct 80

[Text] According to reports from Iraq, the Baghdad rulers have recently begun spreading rumors, on behalf of Iraqi intelligence and police, that this satanic organization had imported advanced devices that can spot anyone listening to the Arabic section of the radio of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The criminal Ba'thists have circulated reports that many persons were recently executed in Baghdad. They had been convicted of listening to the Arabic section of the Iranian radio. This news item does not require any commentary.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF ISSUES COMMUNIQUES 213-219

213: Successes Near Khuninshahr

LD221808 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Oct 80

[Communique 213 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The fighting personnel of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, ahead of all other national forces, are carrying the bloody banner of freedom and are continuing their battle against the infidels. The brave vanguards of the Air Force of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran on 20 October repeatedly attacked enemy forces and have carried out the following operations:

1. Destroyed part of an armored division and supply units in the western part of the country and also destroyed the operational headquarters of the mercenary Iraqi Ba'thist forces near Arvand Rud, inside Iraqi territory.

2. Destroyed enemy forces in the west.

3. Destroyed part of the enemy's armored and artillery columns in the western and southern border regions.

4. Destroyed part of the enemy forces stationed in the border region west of Ahvaz, near Khuninshahr. [Khorramshar]

5. Destroyed part of the artillery and armored forces positioned near Khuninshahr.

6. Destroyed part of the anti-aircraft artillery near Abadan and on the road between Abadan and Ahvaz.

7. Killed a number of the enemy forces near the Karkheh River.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

214: Attacks Against Iraqi Troops

LD221932 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1831 GMT 22 Oct 80

[Communique 214 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Dear muslim compatriots: On Tuesday, the brave and selfless fighting personnel of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, fighting against infidels and Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries continued to weaken their already deteriorating strength by repeated bombardments and dealing fatal blows on the enemy.

The following are the blows dealt by the Air Force of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran yesterday:

1. Destroying enemy helicopter positions south of as-Sulaymaniyah and destroying a number of personnel carriers belonging to the Iraqi Ba'thist forces--about 70 percent of them.

2. Bombarding the Iraqi Aqrah garrison; destruction and damage at this garrison has been 50 percent.

3. Bombing the Da'irah garrison in Iraq, destruction being 20 percent, and the complete destruction of a trailer carrying ammunition for the Iraqi forces at this place.

4. Bombing the as-Sulaymaniyah ammunition dump and a military factory to the west of as-Sulaymaniyah. Destruction due to the above operation was 40 percent.

5. The complete destruction of installations alongside a big Iraqi transmitter antenna in as-Sulaymaniyah.

6. Bombing enemy armored units which were positioned 40 kilometers from Ahvaz. The rate of damage and casualties inflicted on enemy forces was 80 percent.

7. Bombing a supply and support battalion belonging to the enemy near (Hamiq) station to the west of Ahvaz. The rate of damage inflicted on the enemy as a result of this attack was 50 percent.

8. Yesterday, heavy air raids were carried out by the fighting Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran against enemy armored divisions including tanks, personnel carriers and personnel stationed near Abadan and Khorramshahr as a result of which heavy damages and casualties were inflicted on Saddam's mercenaries.

9. During today's operations, one aircraft belonging to the Air Force of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, after carrying out an operation inside Iraqi territory, was involved in an accident and crashed in the Dezful area. Fortunately, its brave pilot is quite well.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

215: Successes in Western Region

LD222206 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2059 GMT 22 Oct 80

[Communique 215 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Two days ago, on 20 October, while the wicked Iraqi mercenaries were busy digging a canal and building fortifications in the western part of the country with one bulldozer and also landing personnel in one gas 66 [as heard], the brave border guards of the Gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran attacked them and while destroying the bulldozer and gas 66 and two trucks containing ammunition, killed a number of the personnel of the forces of blasphemy.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

216: Denial of Tanker Sinking

LD222208 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2100 GMT 22 Oct 80

[Communique 216 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

In His exalted name. Muslim and revolutionary Iranian compatriots:

Now, when the usurping ruling clique of Iraq has been shaken due to the mighty attempts of the fighting forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, its world-devouring supporters have entered the field so that by making and spreading unfounded rumors they might keep this infidel government in power for a few more days. The evil hand of these Saddam-supporting rumormongers today came out of the sleeve of the reporters of REUTER news agency who reported the sinking of a supertanker in the Strait of Hormuz.

Believing that this rumor will be as ineffective as the other rumors of the supporters of the ruler of Baghdad, the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran emphatically announces that the REUTER report is pure lies and has no basis and foundation.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

217: Attacks by Airborne Units

LD222204 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 22 Oct 80

[Communique 217 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The Muslim and committed nation of Iran, the warriors and legend-making personnel of the Airborne Division, during their operations yesterday against the mercenary enemy, inflicted the following damage and casualties in the southwestern region of our country on the forces of blasphemy:

1. In a hawk-like attack by a number of Airborne Division helicopters against the enemy, one vehicle containing fuel, and two other military vehicles were destroyed and several members of the [word indistinct] army were killed.

2. In another attack by the powerful fighters of the Airborne Division of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran against enemy units, five tanks and seven light and heavy fieldguns were destroyed and about 40 Ba'thist hirelings were sent to hell.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

218: Battle Successes in South

LD222146 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2102 GMT 22 Oct 80

[Communique 218 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Muslim champion compatriots of Iran, during the operations carried out by the fighting personnel of the Airborne Division on 22 October in the southern regions of the country, four tanks, six personnel carriers and two big boats belonging to the Ba'thist forces were destroyed and a number of the mercenary infidels in Saddam's army were killed.

At 1335 on 22 October two Iraqi MiG's attacked residential areas 10 kilometers to the northwest of Masjed Soleyman with missiles and bombs, as a result of which two buses and several private cars were damaged, several of our dear compatriots were martyred and a number were injured. There has not been a detailed and precise report of the number of dead and injured.

During the Iraqi mercenaries' attack on Bandar-e Khomeyni, two Iraqi aggressor MiG's were hit by the fighting personnel of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and were down 8 kilometers from Mahshahr. The burned body of the pilot of one of the MiG's and the wreckage of the planes were gathered by the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Also on Wednesday, an Iraqi MiG which had attacked Abadan was down by the fire of the Iranian fighting personnel.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

219: Sinking of Naval Vessel

LD230624 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0531 GMT 23 Oct 80

[Communique 219 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Muslim and revolutionary compatriots of Iran, at 0015, 23 October, in a face-to-face fight between personnel of the Navy of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and naval units of the Iraqi Ba'thist enemy, the brave warriors of Iran managed to destroy and sink an advanced Iraqi boat, of the (Uga) type, in the region of Khor Musa.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

FIGHTING IN KHUNINSHAHR, OTHER BATTLES REPORTED

LD221252 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1042 GMT 22 Oct 80

[Text] An informed source at the Ilam governor general's office. in a contact with PARS, announced: Yesterday, due to the lightning attacks of the fighters of the Air Force of the the Islamic Republic of Iran, in two flights, more than five ammunition dumps, artillery and tanks of the mercenaries of the regime of the traitor Saddam were totally destroyed in the Mehran region.

According to the same official, who had personally witnessed the operations of the [word indistinct] and brave brothers of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, a large part of the intended targets were subjected to air raids and destroyed.

The PARS corresponent in Kermanshah, in a contact with the operations commander of the west of the country, learned that on the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab front the artillery of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with accurate firing, destroyed all enemy artillery positions and stopped the enemy shelling of our positions.

According to the latest reports received and according to the commanders responsible for the region, at 1230 other battlefronts in Gilan-e Gharb, [word indistinct] and the border regions of (?Ilam) were calmer than yesterday.

According to PARS, clashes betweenthe combative forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Ba'thist aggressors have continued on the Abadan-Mahshahr and Abadan-Ahvaz axes since last night. According to this report, in spite of the efforts by the Iraqis to besiege Abadan, the fighting forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Abadan and (?vicinity) have kept their previous positions and remain stationed there. The city has been relatively calm up to 1245--the time of the dispatch of the report--and the mortar fire of the Iraqi mercenaries is reduced as compared with that of the previous night.

According to this report, the fighting and brave people of Abadan have fotified their positions in the city for relentless resistance against possible attacks by Saddam's mercenaries.

Regarding the situation in Khuninshahr [Khorramshahr], the PARS correspondent said: Last night a severe battle took place in that city; the aggressive enemy, who was disgracefully defeated in the hand-to-hand combat with the saga-making braves of Khuninshahr, opened heavy artillery fire on the residential areas of the city.

According to this report, while the brave warriors of Islam in Khuninshahr, under the mortar fire of the enemies of the Islamic revolution, were mopping up Saddam's mercenaries--who had taken up positions in some residential parts of the city--in a hand-to-hand and house-to-house battle last night, the Iraqis advanced in another part of the city and took up positions in the Khuninshahr prison area and the streets around Khuninshahr (?bridge).

According to the Central News Bureau, the Abadan operations commander said at noon today: The adamant and revolutionary forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with the utmost sacrifice and the last drop of their blood, will defend their trenches. He added: While the fighters of our heroic air force, with complete supremacy and control, destroy the positions of the vampiric enemy, Saddam's mercenaries are firing with artillery and mortar at civilians and residential areas in Khuninshahr and Abadan.

REPORTAGE ON 22-23 OCT SITUATION IN ABADAN, KHUNINSHAHR

Callup of Department Heads

GF221430 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 22 Oct 80

[Communique issued by the Khuzestan deputy governor general's office for political and administrative affairs on 22 October]

[Text] In His exalted name. All directors and chiefs of departments, banks, institutions and government firms or any firms affiliated with the government in the cities of Khuninshahr [Khorramshahr] and Abadan who are presently absent from these cities are dutybound to report to the Khuzestan deputy governor general's office for political and administrative affairs by the end of office hours tomorrow, Thursday, 23 October.

Abadan Governor on Successes

LD221734 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1638 GMT 22 Oct 80

[Text] The governor of Abadan, at 1430 today informed PARS news agency as follows:

Heavy fighting is going on between the forces defending the Islamic Republic of Iran and Saddam's mercenaries. He said: The fighter planes of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, today pounded the aggressor Iraqi forces in (Sananjeh) and Gomrok regions and around the Khuninshahr [Khorramshahr] ring road and bombed a region in Iraq in which there was a border post and an encampment of a part of Saddam's forces. The Abadan governor finally said: The resistance put by the forces defending the Islamic Republic is good and they are organizing themselves into groups and managing to push back the Ba'thist infidels at some points on the Khuninshahr fronts.

The central news bureau, this afternoon reported from Abadan: The aggressor infidel forces have taken positions around Abadan and have been shelling residential areas of the city with tanks, shells, mortar and artillery fire since last night, and until this arternoon. According to the same report, the fighting forces of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran have up to now destroyed a number of tanks and personnel carriers belonging to these aggressors.

Iraqi Attacks, Air Raids

JN221858 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 22 Oct 80

[Text] PARS reports from Abadan that the aggressor infidel Iraqis on the outskirts of Abadan last night tried to advance toward Abadan under the cover of darkness. However, the heroic resistance of the fighters of the Islamic Republic of Iran repulsed the aggression of Saddam's mercenaries.

Reports say that the Iraqi mercenaries opened artillery fire on Abadan from Iraqi territory, causing damage to residential areas and wounding innocent people.

Our correspondent in Abadan says that enemy tanks destroyed by the artillery of our Muslim heroes were seen on the outskirts of Abadan.

Reports also say that the city of Khuninshahr [Khorramshahr] today witnessed the heroism of the sons of Hoseyn, may peace be upon him. Saddam's forces were unable to penetrate further into the city as a result of this courageous resistance. Our correspondent says that the clashes between the brave forces defending Islam and Saddam's mercenaries continued this morning in the streets surrounding [name indistinct], the railroad station and Taleqani quarter. The Ba'thist infidels were forced to withdraw after they suffered heavy loss of life. But the Ba'thists shelled residential areas with their artillery.

The PARS correspondent quotes the governor of Abadan as saying that Iraqi MiG's this morning raided residential areas in Bazargan quarter and station Nos 7 and 12, killing and wounding innocent people.

House-to-House Fighting

LD222136 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2050 GMT 22 Oct 80

[Text] In a contact with the governor of Abadan at 2330 tonight, PARS was informed that house-to-house fighting has again started in Khuninshahr [Khorramshahr]. According to this report, Iranian fighter planes in war operations this morning--which lasted until this afternoon--aimed their weapons at the circular road of Dezh garrison; and the areas around the customs department and the slaughterhouse of Khuninshahr. These areas are in the hands of the mercenaries of Saddam, and heavy casualties were inflicted upon the Iraqis. The gathering places of the infidels were badly damaged. The enemy forces stationed in Iraqi territory in (Tangefar) region, opposite Abadan, were also hit and suffered great damage.

The governor of Abadan, quoting a reliable source, said: One Iraqi MiG dropped bombs on the residential section of Bereym village and inflicted casualties upon the civilians of the village.

The resistance of the heroes of Abadan and Khuninshahr in the face of the infidels is still excellent. The strong faith and the self-sacrifice of the defenders of the revolution is the best evidence of the firm determination and iron will of the Islamic community in defending the gains of our bloody revolution.

The governor of Abadan also added: In today's operations the Iranian light artillery in Abadan inflicted considerable damage on the armored forces of the enemy of the Islamic Revolution and a number of the forces of blasphemy were killed.

The mercenary forces of Saddam have military access at the moment over the Abadan-Ahvaz and Abadan-Ma'shahr roads but the interesting point if that the mutual trust of the people and their sincere cooperation has reached its zenith. The continuation of this, which is derived from pure faith, will definitely result in a monotheistic society. With his stupid aggression against the Islamic revolution, Saddam has unwittingly rendered great assistance to the complete establishment of the government of Islamic Justice in the region and the exportation of our revolution.